

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 30, 2009. Claims 14, 15 and 30 to 33, of which all but Claim 31 are independent, are pending in the application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, it is not clear that the Examiner has entered or considered the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on December 1, 2009 since the Office Action merely states that it is in response to the RCE and submission dated November 23, 2009. Additionally, the Office Action does not set forth the specific language of the claims and state where each element can be found in the art and as such, Applicants can not determine from the detailed rejections whether the Examiner has considered the claim language of the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner confirm that the Supplemental Amendment has been entered. In this regard, it is noted that, for the purpose of amending the claims as set forth above, the language submitted in the Supplemental Amendment has been used herein under the assumption that the Amendment has been entered.

The Summary of the Invention has been amended so as to reflect the invention as presently claimed. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action indicated that, should Claim 31 be found allowable, Claim 33 would be rejected as being a substantial duplicate. This assertion is traversed. While Claim 33 includes the multiple destination features which are also included in Claim 31, Claim 33 nonetheless includes additional features not found in Claim 31, such as the

first menu including items representing the plural transmission destinations having different transmission categories in one selection screen.

Claims 14, 15 and 30 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,662 (Lo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,139,094 (Blasio).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention relates to a scanner connection apparatus (e.g., 100) which is located between a scanner control apparatus (e.g., 500) and an image scanning device (e.g., 200). The scanner connection apparatus receives, from the control apparatus, selection menu image data in which images of items to be selected by a user are arranged, where one of the items is used to instruct a scanning start, and the menu is displayed on a touch-panel screen. When the user designates the scanning start item on the touch panel screen, an image scanning start command is output to the image scanning device. As a second function, a combination of the connection apparatus and the image scanner functions like a network image scanner by the connection apparatus' functions of outputting the start command to the scanner, receiving image data of an original obtained by the scanner, and transmitting the received image data of the original.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 14 is directed to a scanner connection apparatus comprising a first communication interface that connects to an image scanning device, a second communication interface that connects to a control apparatus on a network, where the control apparatus has functions of setting a scanning condition and of communication with the image scanning device, a display unit having a screen that displays an image, a touch-sensitive panel arranged on the screen of the display unit, and a

processor that controls the scanner connection apparatus, wherein, the display unit, the touch-sensitive panel and the processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting a user instruction and for enabling to issue a scanning start command for the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, selection menu image data in which images of items to be selected by a user are arranged, where one of the items is used to instruct a scanning start, the display unit displaying the received selection menu image data, the processor detecting a touch on the touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, and the processor transmitting, via the second communication interface, information specifying an item designated by the user, to the control apparatus, based on the touch on the touch-sensitive panel, so that a scanning start command is output to the image scanning device, wherein, the first communication interface, the second communication interface, the processor and the image scanning device connected to the first communication interface configure a unit which operates as a local image scanner of the control apparatus by the processor's operations of, outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via the first communication interface as a response to the scanning start instruction by the user, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via the first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the original via the second communication interface to the network.

Claim 15 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 14.

Claim 30 is a variation of Claim 15 that is directed to a scanner connection apparatus comprising a first communication interface that connects to an image

scanning device, a second communication interface that connects to a control apparatus on a network, where the control apparatus has functions of communicating with the image scanning device and of transmitting image data obtained from the image scanning device to a transmission destination on the network, a display unit having a screen that displays an image, a touch-sensitive panel arranged on the screen of the display unit, and a processor that controls the scanner connection apparatus, wherein, the display unit, the touch-sensitive panel and the processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting of a user instruction and for enabling selection of a transmission destination of an image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, selection menu image data in which images of items to be selected by a user are arranged, where the selection menu image data has two types comprising first menu image data including items representing transmission destinations to be designated by a user and second menu image data including at least an item used to instruct a scanning start by the user, the display unit displaying the received selection menu image data of the first or second menu image data, the processor detecting a touch on the touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, the processor transmitting, via the second communication interface, information specifying the transmission destination designated by the user, to the control apparatus if the first menu image data is received and displayed, so that the control apparatus specifies the transmission destination of the image data of the original, and wherein, the first communication interface, the second communication interface, the processor and the image scanning device connected to the first communication interface configure a unit which

operates as a local image scanner of the control apparatus by, the processor's operations of outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via the first communication interface as a response to the operation of the user if the second menu image data is received and displayed and if the user designates the item used to instruct the scanning start, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via the first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the original via the second communication interface so that the control apparatus transmits the image data of the original to the designated transmission destination.

Claim 32 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 30.

Claim 33 is along the lines of Claim 30, but with additional features such that it is directed to a scanner connection apparatus, comprising a first communication interface that connects to an image scanning device, a second communication interface that connects to a control apparatus on a network, where the control apparatus has functions of communicating with the image scanning device and of transmitting image data obtained from the image scanning device to a transmission destination on the network, a display unit having a screen that displays an image, a touch-sensitive panel arranged on the screen of the display unit, and a processor that controls the scanner connection apparatus, wherein, the display unit, the touch-sensitive panel and the processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting of a user instruction and for enabling selection of a transmission destination of image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, selection menu image data in which images of items to be

selected by a user are arranged, where the selection menu image data has two types comprising first menu image data including items representing transmission destinations to be designated by a user and second menu image data including at least an item used to instruct a scanning start by the user, the display unit displaying the received selection menu image data of the first or second menu image data, the processor detecting a touch on the touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, and the processor transmitting, via the second communication interface, information specifying the transmission destination designated by the user, to the control apparatus if the first menu image data is received and displayed, so that read image data of an original arrives to the transmission destination designated by the user, wherein the processor performs operations of outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via the first communication interface, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via the first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the original via the second communication interface so that the image data of the original arrives at the designated transmission destination, and wherein, the selection screen displaying unit is used for specifying plural transmission destinations on the network, in which different transmission categories among a facsimile destination, a printer, a FTP destination, a file server, a PC, and a mail destination are included, and the first menu image data includes items representing the plural transmission destinations having different transmission categories in one selection screen.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 14, 15, 30, 32 and 33, and in

particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a scanner connection apparatus having a display unit, a touch-sensitive panel and a processor that configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting a user instruction and for enabling to issue a scanning start command for the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, selection menu image data in which images of items to be selected by a user are arranged, where one of the items is used to instruct a scanning start, the display unit displaying the received selection menu image data (Claims 14 and 15), or a scanner connection apparatus where the display unit, the touch-sensitive panel and the processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting of a user instruction and for enabling selection of a transmission destination of an image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, selection menu image data in which images of items to be selected by a user are arranged, where the selection menu image data has two types comprising first menu image data including items representing transmission destinations to be designated by a user and second menu image data including at least an item used to instruct a scanning start by the user (Claims 30, 32 and 33).

Lo teaches that scanner 144 is connected via interface 140 to server 130 and that server 130 is connected via interface 120 to client 102. The Office Action appears to equate server 130 with the connection apparatus of the invention, and that client 102 corresponds to the control apparatus of the claims. Assuming this to be the case, in Lo, a pull down menu shown in Fig. 9 is displayed on client 102 (i.e., the control apparatus) for a

user to select a source of image input device (i.e., to select a scanner to read the original). Thus, in one aspect, in Lo the control apparatus displays the menu and not the scanner connection apparatus (server). In another aspect, the pull down menu in Lo is for selecting a scanner and not for selecting, via the displayed menu, a transmission destination of the scanned image data. Moreover, Applicants fail to see where, in Lo, the selection menu data is received by the scanner connection apparatus (server of Lo) via the network from the control apparatus (client of Lo) and so that the menu can be displayed on a display unit of the scanner connection apparatus. It is noted that the features of the claimed invention can be found in the published application at paragraphs [0045], [0063], [0081], [0085]-[0087], [-0101], [0104], [0107], [0145] and Fig. 14. For at least these reasons, Lo is not seen to teach the foregoing features of Claims 14, 15, 30, 32 and 33.

Blasio is not seen to make up for the deficiencies of Lo. In this regard, Blasio is merely seen to teach that a host computer and a scanner are connected locally, that a scanner control routine is installed in the host computer so that a user can select one or more destinations for a scanned image. Thus, Blasio is not seen to teach the scanner connection apparatus of the claims inasmuch as it fails to teach that selection menu image data is received via a network by the scanner control apparatus via a network. That is, the host computer of Blasio is merely seen to be locally installed and used to control a locally connected scanner, but Blasio fails to teach that image data of selection menu is received via a network from a control apparatus to be displayed on a touch-screen panel of the connection apparatus, and also fails to teach that a scanning start command is transmitted to the scanner when the user selects a start item from the selection menu. Thus, assuming

Blasio could have been combined with Lo, the result would have been, at best, the routine of Blasio being installed on the client 102 of Lo so that the user can select both the scanner to scan the original and a transmission destination. Such a result still would have fallen far short of the scanner connection apparatus of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 14, 15 and 30 to 33 are believed to be allowable over Lo and Blasio.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith. As to the references cited therein, Applicants wish to point out that they are directed to a multi-function printer which can display screen data received from an external apparatus. However, the printer receives the screen data as video signals from the external apparatus via a specific video bus rather than via a network. These references are silent, however, regarding a scanner connection apparatus receiving selection menu data via a network that is displayed on a touch-sensitive panel.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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